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Remarks

Claims 1-26 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17, 19, and 23-26 were rejected. Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 16, and 18 were merely objected to and claims 12-15 and 20-22 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 1, 9, 20, and 22-24, are amended, and no claims are added. No new matter is presented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 7, 8, 10, 12-16, 18, and 20-22.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17, 19, and 23-25 were rejected as being anticipated by Honda et al. U.S. Patent 6,092,987. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

1. The Claimed Securing

At the second paragraph of page 2 of the Office Action, with apparent reference to the securing specified in claim 1, it was asserted that "Because of the inherent frictional contact between the unnumbered o-rings and the structural case 28/42 and the joined one of the shroud rings B, the aft joint E is broadly considered to secure the structural case 28/42 to the structural hub D while the fore joint F is broadly considered to secure the structural case 28/42 to the joined one of the shroud rings B."

This interpretation is not believed reasonable and not supported by the specification as will be read by one of ordinary skill in the art. The assertion of inherent frictional contact, no matter how slight, has the effect of vitiating the claim element of "securing". There is also an inherent gravitational attraction between the various components. This, too, does not constitute securing. Furthermore, if such trivial interaction were asserted to inherently provide securing it would vitiate the term "securing" as the securing would have to be present even if the element "securing" did not appear in the claim.

2. The Claimed Bleed Plenum

At page 5 of the Office Action, two alternative interpretations were identified regarding the bleed ports and bleed plenum. First, it was asserted that there are "a plurality of bleed ports C

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to an annular bleed plenum which may be considered as 32..." Second, it was asserted that the "annular bleed plenum may alternatively be considered as the annular area radially inside of element 28, adjacent to passages 30..." Only the second interpretation appears to have been applied to claims 23-25 wherein at page 6 it was further identified that element 32 was the outboard plenum. Neither of these interpretations is sufficient.

The first interpretation is insufficient for several reasons. First, element C identifies a single annular space rather than a plurality of ports. As is discussed in further detail below, even if ports were present at C, this would not leave "a plurality of valve ports from the bleed plenum" if that bleed plenum is at element 32. The implications of "from" and "to" are discussed further in the paragraph immediately below.

The second interpretation is insufficient because the identified ports would be from the area asserted to be the plenum rather than to. It appears the examiner has taken a broad interpretation of "from" versus "to" so as to be independent of an actual flow direction. This is improper because it vitiates the distinction between "from" and "to". Nevertheless, independent claims 1, 9, and 23 have been amended to identify relative positions along the bleed flowpath (See the bleed flowpath associated with reference numeral 506 in FIG. 2 and also *see* claim 24). Although claim 24 had expressly identified relative upstream and downstream positions of the bleed ports relative to the valve ports, the positions relative to the bleed plenum have been clarified to avoid hypothetical interpretation wherein both the bleed ports and the valve ports are downstream of the bleed plenum. The former is upstream while the latter are downstream.

Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 17, 19, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chlus U.S. Patent 6,802,691 in view of Honda et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

At page 7 of the Office action, in the second full paragraph, it was identified that Chlus discloses "a bleed port C to an unnumbered annular bleed plenum which may be considered as the area radially outward of reference numeral 56, and/or which annular bleed plenum may alternatively be considered as the annular area radially inside of element 20..." These interpretations are insufficient for several reasons. First, as with Honda et al., only a single port is

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asserted rather than a plurality of ports. Second, the area radially outward of reference numeral 56 does not satisfy the claimed positioning upstream of the valve. Third, the examiner purports to identify an area not in fluid communication with C as being the bleed plenum (e.g., the area containing the head of the bolt below and to the left of numeral 20) then such an area is not a bleed plenum because it is not exposed to the bleed which is totally contained within C and 20. These deficiencies alone are sufficient to overcome the rejections.

Additionally, there is no basis for the examiner's assertion that Honda et al. discloses plural bleed ports "C" anymore than Chlus does.

Clearly, the combination fails to suggest other relationships with the bleed plenum. For example, regarding claim 26, the identified Chlus structure cannot be a bleed offtake duct extending into the annular bleed plenum because the identified region is not a bleed plenum.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Malmborg U.S. PGPub. 2005/0008486. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Even if combined with Honda et al., Malmborg does not cure the deficiency regarding the positioning of the bleed ports, etc. In this regard, it is noted that the first full paragraph of page 4 of the Office action notes that "Malmborg is not relied upon to teach these features [the claimed bleed plenum] but is relied upon to teach a structural case..."

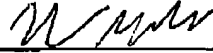
Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda et al. in view of Chlus and further in view of Malmborg. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office action included a repeated discussion of Malmborg. As noted above, however, even if the combination were proper it fails to suggest the claimed bleed plenum.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

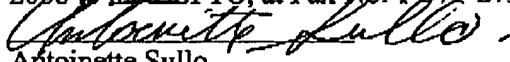
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 23rd day of March 23, 2006 to the USPTO, at Fax No. 1-571-273-8300.


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